

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /088 W
----- 059812

R 111500 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2741

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0300

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: REGIONAL UNITED PARTY MEETING MARKED BY SERIOUS TENSION.

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, BASED ON LEAKS, AND FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS, 4- HOUR MEETING OF WITWATERSRAND GENERAL COUNCIL OF UNITED PARTY APRIL 9, ATTENDED BY SOME 400 PERSONS, SAW HEATED DISCUSSION OF PARTY' S PARTICIPATION IN SCHLEBUSCH MISSION WHOSE RECOMMENDATIONS LED TO GOVERNMENT' S BANNING OF 8 NUSAS LEADERS LAST MONTH. REPORTEDLY 2 OR 4 UP MEMBERS OF COMMISSION, ETIENNE MALAN AND LIONEL MURRAY, WERE GIVEN ROUGHT TREATMENT AT MEETING, AND PERSONAL, LAST- MINUTE INTERVENTION OF PARTY LEADER SIR DEVILLIERS GRAAFF REQUIRED TO PREVENT ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION STRONGLY CRITICIZING ROLE OF FOUR COMMISSIONERS. FINAL OUTCOME WAS ADOPTION OF BLAND RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY GRAAFF TO EFFECT THAT COUNCIL ASKED 2 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT TO CONVEY SENSE OF DISCUSSION TO OTHER 2 COMMISSIONERS AND TO PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS.

2. STRONG SENTIMENT EXPRESSED IN MEETING AGAINST PARTY PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY INTERNAL SECURITY COMMISSION, BUT APPARENTLY NO RESOLUTION ON THIS
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SUBJECT PUT TO VOTE.

3. TRANSVAAL UP LEADER HARRY SCHWARZ MADE APPEAL FOR RESTORATION OF UNITED IN PARTY AND END TO RECENT FACTIONAL " BACK STABBING ." FOLLOWING DAY HE FLEW TO CAPE TOWN WITH GRAAFF TO ATTEND WEEKLY MEETING OF PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS.

4. LEADING MEMBER OF TRANSVAAL " YOUNG TURK" GROUP TOLD CONGEN OFFICER APRIL 10 THAT OUTCOME OF MEETING WAS ONLY SUPERFICIAL PAPERING- OVER OF STRONG BASIC DIFFERENCES WITHIN PARTY ON GENERAL POLICY ISSUES. THROUGH RECENT STATEMENT BY ETIENNE MALAN, PARTY' S CONSERVATIVE " OLD GUARD" HAS MADE CLEAR ITS INTENTION TO SEEK TO DRIVE MORE LIBERAL ELEMENTS OUT OF PARTY AS IT DID FOUNDERS OF PRESENT PROGRESSIVE PARTY IN 1959. SHOWDOWN BETWEEN TWO GROUPS BOUND TO COME SOONER OR LATER.

5. JOHANNESBURG STAR APRIL 11 EDITORIALY REPORTED ITS EARLIER ADVICE TO UP THAT PARTY WITHDRAW NOW FROM SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION AND DECLARE ITS INTENTION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN PROPOSED PERMANENT SECURTY COMMISSION.

DECONTROL FOLLOWING DECEMBER 31, 1973.
LUTKINS

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